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Chairperson: Ms. Gittens-Joseph ..... (Trinidad and Tobago)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 105: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/55/119, A/55/156, A/55/162-S/2000/715 and A/55/257-S/2000/766; A/C.3/55/L.3-L.5)

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1. **Mr. Hadjiargyrou** (Cyprus) stressed the importance of creating a comprehensive international legal regime in responding to the dangers posed by the increasingly sophisticated operations of organized crime. He therefore welcomed the Organization's considerable efforts in the area of crime prevention and international drug control, including the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice and the finalization of the draft Convention against Transnational Organized Crime as well as its three protocols. His Government had ratified the United Nations conventions in the area of increased international cooperation on criminal justice matters, participated in the relevant European conventions and had concluded bilateral agreements aimed particularly at combating transnational crime and drug-trafficking. Cyprus hosted full-time liaison officers from 17 countries and cooperated with Interpol and other agencies.

2. Since Cyprus was a major offshore financial centre, its authorities had taken extensive measures to deal with money-laundering. An appropriate legislative framework had been created, proper implementation and enforcement mechanisms had been established for both the public and private sectors, compulsory directives on preventive controls had been issued to the banking sector, a dialogue was being maintained with groups involved in financial matters, such as lawyers, accountants and others, and international and regional cooperation, for example with the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and other foreign agencies, had been enhanced.

3. He shared the view that the problem of narcotics had global implications and constituted a grave threat to all nations and called for the implementation of all relevant international instruments and the enhancement of efforts to combat the drug trade. However, the root causes of the problem, such as poverty and socio-economic imbalances, unemployment, lack of opportunities in education and the alienation so often prevalent in urban society must also be urgently addressed. Effective action to reduce drug consumption must be combined with efforts to reduce the production of crops through alternative development and crop substitution as well as rehabilitation and social reintegration programmes for drug addicts. Police and judicial cooperation must also be reinforced in order to pursue those profiting from the sale of narcotics.

4. The Global Programme of Action developed at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly provided a blueprint for addressing the drug problem through the formulation of specific policies and targets. Governments, supported by the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), should compile a common database on patterns and trends in drug abuse, including best practices in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

5. Although there was relatively little drug use in Cyprus, his Government did not underestimate the threat and had instituted a national policy to combat drugs as well as an information campaign. A national committee had been created to coordinate prevention and information and in 1996 a National Policy for the Prevention of Drug Dependence and the Treatment of Drug-dependent Persons had been instituted, which included, among others, the establishment of a National Anti-Narcotic Council, preventive strategies at the primary, secondary and tertiary education levels and the study of the drug problem as a whole within the country. As part of Cyprus' international efforts, in May 1998 the Cypriot police had organized a first regional meeting in Cyprus for the drug liaison officers of neighbouring countries as well as the representative of UNDCP.

6. It was essential that the mechanisms to combat the causes and consequences of crime and drug abuse should be given the resources to meet their objectives and, since the internationalization of the problem had made greater international cooperation essential, resources must be mobilized on a global level for the common effort. United Nations standards and norms were more pertinent than ever and effective criminal justice standards, based on human rights and partnership between States and international organizations would provide the basis for combating

crime and drug abuse while promoting and preserving the rule of law.

7. **Ms. Ibraimova** (Kyrgyzstan) said that she associated herself with the statement to be made by Kazakhstan on agenda item 106.

8. Drug-trafficking and abuse threatened Kyrgyzstan's national security. She therefore welcomed the convening of a conference in Tashkent in October 2000 on enhancing security and stability in central Asia, co-hosted by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (ODCCP). She also noted with appreciation the work of UNDCP in Afghanistan in the area of alternative development and was encouraged by the fact that in three Afghan districts the area under poppy cultivation had decreased by 50 per cent. In that context she welcomed the decision of the Security Council to consider the issue of drug-trafficking from Afghanistan in the spring of 2000. She expressed support for the regional action plan endorsed by the "6+2" Group on 13 September 2000 and looked forward to implementation of its timely provisions aimed at combating the illegal drug trade.

9. International cooperation and States' efforts in the area of drug control had been reinforced but more remained to be done in order to meet the targets agreed upon at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. Drug abuse was still a major threat for the twenty-first century, in particular, because of its effect on youth; in Kyrgyzstan, for example, 75 per cent of drug addicts were under 30 years old and 8 per cent of crime and 70 per cent of thefts were committed by drug addicts. It was also a major source of concern that opium (60 per cent in 1999) was replacing hashish (65 per cent in 1990) as the drug of choice. Drug control had therefore been made a national priority; an anti-narcotic strategy had been developed and special state agencies had been established with a view to implementing the national anti-narcotics policy and ensuring coordination among all ministries and agents involved in the fight against narcotics and drug-trafficking.

10. Bilateral and multilateral agreements and cooperation were essential tools in controlling the drug problem and Krygyzstan continued to cooperate with UNDCP in developing effective programmes. Her Government fully understood its responsibility to its people, future generations and to the international community for the elimination of the evils of drug abuse and trafficking. It was for that reason it had been pleased to co-sponsor the draft resolution on international cooperation against the world drug problem as part of its contribution to the fight against narcotics.

11. **Ms. Fritsche** (Liechtenstein) said that her Government fully supported the international community's efforts to combat transnational organized crime, particularly trafficking in persons, smuggling of migrants, corruption and financial crime. Implementation of the global programme against trafficking in human beings would enable countries of origin, transit and destination to develop joint strategies and practical actions that would transcend a purely bilateral approach. Financial crime, including money-laundering, which was characterized by the high mobility of funds and the rapid development of new payment tools, was often described as the heart of organized crime. Much of the money being laundered stemmed from profits from illegal drug-trafficking or other illegal transactions. While her Government was committed to combating that practice, it was important not to confuse the crime of money-laundering with other issues, such as tax competition.

12. In acceding to the European Economic Area in 1995, Liechtenstein had brought its legislation into line with European Union standards by introducing a money-laundering offence into the Penal Code and adopting legislation on professional diligence when accepting assets. It had also participated in the work of the Council of Europe Select Committee of Experts on the Evaluation of Anti-Money-laundering Measures and it had adopted legislation to prevent the abuse of financial services by, inter alia, strengthening and improving existing provisions in the fields of due diligence, prosecution and mutual legal assistance and enacting far-reaching law enforcement measures.

13. Her Government had adopted the objectives of the Global Programme against Money-Laundering, thereby formally committing itself to the United Nations minimum standards for the prevention of money-laundering. It welcomed and would sign the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto. Efforts to combat money-laundering could be successful only through a common approach to the implementation of internationally-agreed standards. Her Government fully

supported the initiatives and programmes of the United Nations Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, which included international cooperation and dialogue, respect for established procedures and cooperation with countries affected by such crimes in a transparent, inclusive and non-discriminatory manner. Positive action must be appropriately recognized and acknowledged; any punitive approach, including the establishment of lists, ran counter to the spirit of international cooperation.

14. **Mr. Mansor** (Malaysia) expressed concern that the rapid growth in communications and technology and the increasing globalization of the world economy as well as the dismantling of barriers to the movement of goods and people had led to a rise in international crime, economic crime and money-laundering. Efforts by individual countries to combat those crimes were hampered by slow communications between countries and with international crime prevention agencies, differences in national legislation, the problems involved in transnational investigations, and court appearances of foreign witnesses, and complex and time-consuming extradition processes.

15. New forms of transnational crimes had also emerged: a modern slave trade in human beings, especially women and children, cyberspace child pornography, and an illicit trade in firearms. International terrorism funded by the proceeds of trafficking and organized crime and international kidnappings for ransom were also on the rise. His delegation believed that the 1994 Naples Political Declaration and the Global Action Plan against Organized Transnational Crime continued to be the guiding document in fighting crime, in particular with regard to the harmonization and strengthening of national legislation governing extradition. The Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-first Century, adopted by the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 2000 also deserved attention and follow-up. His Government would continue to play an active role in regional and international cooperation efforts to combat transnational organized crime. It remained committed to all international conventions and regional and bilateral agreements relating to transnational crime to which it was a party and was willing to enter into bilateral agreements with any country for the purpose of fighting drug trade.

16. The modern international communication system should permit greater coordination and collaboration at all levels of efforts to combat transnational crime, in particular with regard to extradition, illicit trafficking in motor vehicles and the smuggling of illegal migrants. To that end, mechanisms for the sharing of information and intelligence should be improved, as more and better information and analysis coupled with regional and international cooperation were essential elements in the fight against transnational crime. The proposed Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and its three protocols, should intensify and make more effective international cooperation in that area.

17. Malaysia was faced with three major drug-related problems: smuggling of drugs for local consumption, transit of drugs towards third countries and drug abuse by a small proportion of the local population. A national drug policy had been formulated to eliminate the demand for and supply of illicit drugs, and steps had been taken to implement the national strategic plan to create a drug-free generation by 2023, which should also contribute to the international goal of significant and measurable reduction in demand for drugs by the year 2008.

18. Non-governmental organizations in Malaysia offered a wide range of treatment and rehabilitation programmes to drug abusers. The Government encouraged those efforts and had also entered into a dialogue with those organizations to discuss how it could assist them in increasing the effectiveness of their drug prevention activities and eliminate duplication of efforts.

19. The supply of illicit drugs could only be eliminated through international cooperation. The 1998 special session of the General Assembly on drugs had focused on measures to eradicate illicit crops and ways to avoid the diversion of chemicals into illicit drug manufacture as well as demand reduction programmes. His delegation strongly supported United Nations efforts to promote coordinated and collective action to solve the drug problem at the national, regional and global levels. As a signatory to the Joint Declaration for a Drug-Free Association of South-East Asian Nations by 2015, Malaysia would ensure that its relevant national agencies fully implemented the recommendations of that Declaration and was honoured to have been entrusted by other member

States of ASEAN with undertaking regional drug treatment and rehabilitation projects.

20. In May 2000 Malaysia had become a member of the Asia-Pacific Group on Money-laundering established to counter the laundering of the proceeds of illicit drug-trafficking through regional cooperative efforts and the sharing of information among member countries. At the national level, the Dangerous Drugs (Forfeiture of Property) Act had criminalized the laundering of the proceeds of illicit drug-trafficking, and the central bank of Malaysia had established an intergovernmental agency committee to counter money-laundering and coordinate and implement anti-laundering measures in the financial sector, including the promotion of public awareness of money-laundering and measures to combat that crime. His delegation would continue to cooperate in all efforts to combat transnational crime and the drug problem and was pleased to once again co-sponsor the draft resolution on international cooperation against the world drug problem.

21. **Ms. Frankel** (Israel) stressed that the only effective way of fighting the rising tide of drug-trafficking and abuse was through the establishment of an international task force devoted solely to that purpose. At the national level, Israel's Anti-drug Authority (ADA) was responsible for coordinating efforts to combat drug abuse and trafficking and had developed a network of services which had greatly contributed to the fight against drug abuse. A new strategy had recently been adopted which gave priority to intervention programmes aimed at high-risk populations. The Government, while recognizing the need to increase efforts for prevention, also remained committed to strict law enforcement measures.

22. She emphasized the need to concentrate on youth and said that special programmes and services for children and teenagers, especially those considered to be at risk, had been developed. Police personnel were involved in activities such as seminars and workshops for youth on drug abuse and drug-trafficking. Young people were involved in conveying the anti-drug message to their peers, training programmes for teachers and physical education instructors had been intensified, and sports activities and competitions were used to communicate the anti-drug message. Special preventive activities had also been created for parents and prisoners, and one project allowed prison inmates undergoing detoxification to share their personal experience with students. Work was under way to create a guidance centre to implement preventive activities at the local and national levels aimed at the "occasional user". Anti-drug weeks were held each year in June and December, the former in conjunction with the international anti-drug day.

23. The Ministries of Health and of Labour and Social Affairs, the Prison Service and the ADA provided a wide variety of treatment and rehabilitation programmes for drug victims as part of a comprehensive response which included legal, housing, social security and employment assistance as well as treatment. Fully detoxified adults were eligible for scholarships for study and for professional training. The Prison Service used a holistic approach integrating medical, psychological, social and family oriented treatment.

24. Attention had been focused on expanding the treatment system for young people affected by drugs. ADA, in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, operated a therapeutic community, a hostel and a family shelter. A country-wide ambulatory treatment system was also available for teenagers and treatment groups had been organized for children at high risk due to addiction problems in their families. ADA continued to sponsor studies and research to evaluate its work and expand theoretical and applied knowledge in its spheres of activity, such as intervention programmes, impact on the family of teenage drug abuse, attitudes of social workers towards substance abuse, predisposition to dependency and the effects of drug use. ADA also assisted law enforcement agencies and promoted legislation to prevent money-laundering. With regard to the latter, a comprehensive law to prevent money-laundering had been enacted in August 2000.

25. In an effort to involve the public in efforts to combat crime, volunteer activities had been organized to foster cooperation between the public and the criminal justice system. The Community Action Project stressed the importance of civic involvement in law enforcement activity, citizens were encouraged to volunteer for the Civil Guard and special civic units were currently recruiting members for the sole purpose of fighting drugs. Such cooperation between citizens and police had proved to be a valuable partnership in reducing crime, especially with regard to drug and alcohol abuse by youth.

26. Her delegation shared the international concern regarding the threat of illicit drugs and the international community's conviction that that phenomenon must be combated. It was eager to share its knowledge and expertise with any nation and stressed that only regional, and international cooperation could halt the spreading drug scourge.

27. **Miss Durrant** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), said that the Caribbean States welcomed the commitment made at the Millennium Summit to implementation of the decisions and resolutions adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

28. The strategic location of the Caribbean States compounded the problems arising from drug-trafficking. The transit of illicit drugs through that region posed a threat to regional security, particularly in light of its links to corruption, money-laundering and the traffic in small arms and light weapons. Several regional and bilateral initiatives had been adopted in order to strengthen national capacities to address effectively the problems associated with the demand for, supply of and trafficking in illicit drugs. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNDCP had been of tremendous assistance in the elaboration of cooperative strategies and the provision of financial and technical assistance, and the joint initiative by the Caribbean Coordination Mechanism and the CARICOM secretariat's regional coordination mechanism had achieved encouraging results in the areas of prevention, treatment and demand reduction. During the past year, CARICOM, in cooperation with UNDCP, had taken steps to improve implementation of the 1996 Barbados Programme of Action in the areas of law enforcement, demand reduction, money-laundering and other drug-related criminal activities.

29. Drug abuse and trafficking, particularly among young people, could lead to disintegration of communities and social structures. One solution lay in an intersectoral approach integrating education and health with communication policies aimed at behavioural change. The Inter-Governmental Task Force on Drugs had been established as the regional policy-coordination mechanism to combat all aspects of the drug trade in the region. The CARICOM Legal Affairs Committee, with the support of the European Union, had been actively reviewing the proposed maritime agreement for the Caribbean, and there were plans to convene the first strategic planning meeting for maritime operations in the Caribbean.

30. It was not enough to focus on supply and demand reduction; poverty, social and economic disparities and development concerns arising from constraints on international trade and disadvantageous international economic and financial structures must also be addressed. She therefore welcomed the Secretary-General's focus on alternative development, including better integration of the most vulnerable sectors involved in the illicit drug trade into legal and viable economic activities by, inter alia, establishing credit schemes, developing agro-industry and diversifying income. It was also important to identify best strategies for prevention and treatment that were relevant to countries with limited financial resources and social and cultural conditions different from those of the developed world. Multilateral, regional, subregional and bilateral cooperation was the most effective way of achieving the goals established at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, which remained particularly relevant in a globalized environment that facilitated the proliferation of transboundary criminal activities and illicit international financial flows.

31. CARICOM welcomed the adoption of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice and finalization of negotiations on the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and looked forward to the conclusion of the protocols thereto. She welcomed efforts to assist developing countries by, inter alia, creating a special United Nations account for the funding of technical assistance to developing countries and countries in transition and encouraged contributions to that fund. The Centre for International Crime Prevention should also be allocated additional resources so that it could meet States' request for assistance in implementing the Convention and its protocols.

32. CARICOM called on arms-producing States to exercise more rigid control and accountability over the export of arms for illicit ends and welcomed progress in combating the problem of small arms and related activities, such as money-laundering, in cooperation with its bilateral and regional partners in North America and Europe. Member States had also undertaken various national initiatives, including an executive seminar of Ministers of National Security and Commissioners of Police on regional anti-crime strategies, held in Kingston in 1999.

33. **Mr. Melenevsky** (Ukraine) said that little progress was being made towards better international cooperation and national action in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. Unprecedented challenges posed by the increasingly global criminal world made it clear that no country alone could cope successfully with the growth of transnational crime. It was more important than ever for all international partners to work together, and they had to establish an effective international network of technical, legal and judicial cooperation. In addition to building up its national capacity, Ukraine had actively developed bilateral and multilateral cooperation in that field, and it was a party to more than 130 multilateral and bilateral agreements on mutual legal assistance.

34. The Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders had developed a common strategy to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century. The Vienna Declaration provided a reliable guideline for actions of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. Ukraine had always ensured that its policy and activities were in line with those established at the international level and was consistently working on incorporating those documents into governmental programmes.

35. Trafficking in human beings was a crime whose shame was rivalled only by its profitability. A few joint initiatives had been undertaken in that area, including the Regional Law Enforcement Workshop against Trafficking in Women and Children, sponsored by Ukraine and the United States, whose outcome should promote more effective cooperation and information-sharing practices among the destination, origin and transit countries concerned.

36. The entire international community would have to respond to the new challenges related to the process of globalization, including the threat of electronic terrorism. The computer was capable of striking mercilessly at the security and well-being of nations and countries. During the Millennium Summit, the President of Ukraine had invited world leaders to consider the idea of an international instrument to combat computer terrorism.

37. Organized crime undermined common social values, jeopardized lives and could threaten the stability of an entire society. Ukraine was active in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in Vienna. In order to make law enforcement actions faster and more efficient, it would be extremely useful to develop multilateral judicial cooperation that would help with implementation of the future Convention.

38. **Mr. Bhatti** (Pakistan) said that illicit drug-trafficking and organized transnational crime were a serious challenge to Member States' national security and social stability. In the age of globalization, organized crime benefited from advances in information and communication technologies, deregularization of capital and financial markets and more open borders. On the other hand, the commendable successes of the past decade in fighting drug-trafficking and organized crime had inspired confidence, and criminal cartels were no longer thought to be invincible.

39. The Political Declaration adopted at the special session of the General Assembly in June 1998 had reaffirmed the need for a comprehensive and balanced approach to the international drug problem. It had identified specific goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008, to which Pakistan remained committed.

40. Pakistan had achieved its goal of total eradication of the opium poppy crop by the year 2000, almost one year ahead of schedule. An appropriate mix of development interventions and firm enforcement actions on the ground had made that success possible. Community-based organizations and village development committees had played an important role. Pakistan was grateful to UNDCP for its support.

41. Although two decades previously, Pakistan had been virtually a drug-free society, over the past few years it had become a transit country for illicit drugs, with a growing number of drug addicts, as a direct result of developments in neighbouring Afghanistan. Pakistan had evolved a comprehensive drug demand reduction strategy, which included: treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts; a massive public awareness campaign about the negative effects of drug abuse through print and electronic media; a preventive education campaign through training of teachers and social workers; well-targeted curriculum-based programmes; mobile drug information teams to reach rural and remote areas; sensitizing of community health workers; and establishment of detoxification, treatment and rehabilitation centres. A rapid assessment survey was being compiled with the help of UNDCP in order

to gauge the extent of drug abuse in the country, and NGOs had been fully involved in that national effort.

42. Measures taken to stop the flow of drugs into the country included: effective interdiction efforts along the Pakistan-Afghan border; strengthening of cross-border cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran; improving information exchange with partners; provision of better training and equipment for the Anti-Narcotic Force; and stringent penalties for drug traffickers which included forfeiture of property. Encouraging results had been achieved, and the recently approved Regional Action Plan would further improve the situation.

43. Afghanistan had emerged as the single largest source of opium poppy production in the world. It was encouraging that there had been a 28 per cent decrease in production in the present year. All three UNDCP-supported alternative development pilot projects in Qandahar province had recorded decreases of 50 per cent, in line with the projected targets. Unfortunately, UNDCP would be forced to close down its pilot projects in Afghanistan by the end of the year unless it could obtain additional resources. Effective implementation of the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction in consumer countries would also help to reduce the production of illicit drug crops in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

44. Pakistan was a strong supporter of international cooperation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Organized crime posed serious challenges to every society, and, at a rough estimate, grossed around 1.5 trillion dollars per annum. It thus had the potential to criminalize politics, business, and law enforcement agencies in both poor and rich societies. The successful conclusion of a convention on transnational organized crime had been a step in the right direction at the right time. It reflected the international community's commitment to eradicate major threats to the economic and social development, national security and social stability of all countries.

45. **Mr. Albin** (Mexico) expressed his delegation's support for the statement made by the representative of Colombia on behalf of the Rio Group and recalled the commitments undertaken at the Millennium Summit and the twentieth special session of the General Assembly. He welcomed the inclusion of a specific item on follow-up to the twentieth special session in the agenda of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and looked forward to the report which the Executive Director of UNDCP would submit in that context. He was pleased to announce that his Government's initial report to the Commission had been submitted punctually. Common indicators, criteria and parameters would be necessary for an impartial and objective examination of the Executive Director's report.

46. His delegation welcomed the decision of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to convene a high-level ministerial segment in 2003 and 2008 devoted to follow-up on the implementation of the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, coinciding with the dates established by the Political Declaration of the special session for the fulfilment of its goals and targets. He expressed his delegation's great satisfaction at the Commission's adoption of resolution 43/4 entitled "International cooperation for the prevention of drug abuse among children", based on a Mexican proposal, and appealed to all States to accord priority to activities to that end, in accordance with the Action Plan for the implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. His delegation appealed to the Executive Director of UNDCP to allocate sufficient funds in the regular budget for the biennium 2002-2003 for the implementation of the Action Plan, as requested in Commission resolution 32/2.

47. All action to increase multilateral cooperation in controlling illicit traffic by sea must abide by the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and article 17 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. He praised the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, UNDCP and the International Narcotics Control Board in controlling international trade in chemical precursors used in the manufacture of illicit drugs and stressed the need to focus greater attention on the issue in future. At the regional level, his delegation was gratified by the progress made by the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Multilateral Evaluation Mechanism of the Organization of American States in preparation for presenting its preliminary findings at the Summit of the Americas to be held in Quebec, Canada, in April 2001.

48. With regard to crime prevention and criminal justice, his delegation was glad that work on the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime had been completed and hoped that

the Ad Hoc Committee, at its eleventh session, would be able to finish the three draft protocols thereto, addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and smuggling of migrants by land, air and sea. His delegation supported a broad definition of the concept "trafficking in persons" which extended to all types of sexual or work-related exploitation. A protocol on that topic should provide for protection of the victims and establish the care of minors as an obligation of States parties. International cooperation to combat smuggling of migrants by land, air and sea should be the object of a draft protocol, particularly where a migrant's life or security was at risk or he or she was subjected to exploitation or inhuman and degrading treatment. The protocol should also safeguard migrants' human rights and ensure that those who were victims of illicit trafficking were not penalized. His delegation hoped that the draft protocol combating the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition would be completed during the current month.

49. In conclusion, he said that his Government fully supported the drafting of an effective international instrument against corruption and the establishment of a committee for the elaboration of a draft convention on that question. The draft protocol should be a broad instrument which penalized all forms of corruption and should be based on a study of existing international legal instruments which characterized various forms of corruption.

50. **Mr. Mei Yuncai** (China) said that despite vigorous measures to combat the production of, traffic in and demand for drugs, the worldwide problem continued to grow. Increasing globalization and the information technology revolution had given increased momentum to transnational drug-related crime, from which no country was free. International cooperation for drug control should be enhanced.

51. His Government had made great efforts to implement the measures adopted at the twentieth special session of the General Assembly by registering drug addicts, launching a campaign to ban drugs among the youth, cooperating with neighbouring countries to cultivate alternative crops, and redoubling efforts to confiscate heroin, amphetamines and precursors.

52. All segments of society should be mobilized to achieve drug control. Law enforcement bodies should combat the cultivation, production and trafficking of drugs; health departments should work to rehabilitate drug addicts; and schools and families should provide preventive education for young people and other high-risk groups. The most effective approach was a comprehensive, integrated one involving society as a whole and including measures in the legal, administrative, economic and educational fields.

53. **Mr. Carranza-Cifuentes** (Guatemala) associated his delegation with the statement made by Colombia on behalf of the Rio Group.

54. The world drug problem affected Guatemala in different ways. Because of its geographical location, his country had been used in illicit trafficking by air, land and sea and to some extent as a centre for collection and storage, while natural conditions made it suitable for cultivating various illicit crops, particularly marijuana and the opium poppy. There were indications, besides, of increased consumption of addictive substances among the population. The growing violence and economic power of the criminal organizations involved in drug-trafficking and their links with the international mafia gave cause for concern, as did the economic impact of money-laundering. Corruption had infiltrated various sectors of society and institutions in Guatemala.

55. In the area of demand reduction, some of the efforts had been focused on establishing the extent of the problem of addiction. Initial results confirmed an increase in consumption among adolescents and children. Actions had therefore been aimed at preventive education in schools and encouraging community action to increase social awareness. Another important achievement had been closer cooperation between the Government and the non-governmental sectors to produce the national master plan.

56. His Government fully supported the efforts being made to strengthen United Nations machinery for international drug control, in particular the recommendations of Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/30 of 28 July 1999. At the regional level, it supported the measures to counter consumption, production, storage and illicit trafficking in drugs, narcotics and psychotropic substances carried out by the Organization of American States through the

mechanisms established for that purpose. At the bilateral level, Guatemala was cooperating with its neighbours in combating the production and transit of illicit drugs. Its Anti-Drug Information Centre coordinated the exchange of information and intelligence relating to drug-trafficking with the other Central American centres in Mexico and the Caribbean. The legal framework in Guatemala required strengthening to be able to deal with the growing threat which the drug problem posed to national sovereignty and to society.

57. **Mr. Smagulov** (Kazakhstan) spoke also on behalf of the delegations of Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Belarus, Tajikistan and the Russian Federation.

58. Illicit drug-trafficking and drug abuse constituted one of the most serious problems facing humanity. Globalization and the development of new technologies and transport infrastructure were assisting the activities of drug traffickers. The links between illicit drug-trafficking and such forms of criminal activity as terrorism, money-laundering, smuggling and transnational organized crime were cause for particular concern. Despite the efforts of the entire world community, international drug cartels were getting stronger and becoming more mobile. Another cause for anxiety was the increase in abuse of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, particularly among young people.

59. Those factors had a negative impact on a country's economic situation, its rule of law, the social and psychological atmosphere within its society, and the health of its people. It was therefore urgent to unite the efforts of all States in the joint struggle against the evil of drugs throughout the world. The United Nations should strengthen its machinery for fighting illegal drug-trafficking and become the coordinating body for the anti-drug activities of Member States.

60. The Governments on whose behalf he spoke fully supported the measures undertaken by the United Nations to implement the decisions of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly and were cooperating actively with UNDCP. They endorsed not only the strategy set forth in the Political Declaration adopted at the special session but also the main positions expressed in the report of the Secretary-General on implementation of the decisions of the special session, including the Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. They reconfirmed their commitment to the provisions of the three main United Nations international conventions in that area: the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, with the 1972 Protocol; the 1971 Convention on Psychotropic Substances; and the 1988 Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

61. Regional cooperation was one of the most effective means of combating illicit drug-trafficking. The States on whose behalf he spoke were coordinating measures and actions to that end. An inter-State programme for joint measures to combat organized and other forms of dangerous crime in the territory of member States of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) for the period up until 2003, which contained a special section on drugs, had been approved by the Council of Heads of State of the CIS in June 2000. Priority attention was being given to the question of establishing an adequate international legal basis for cooperation. An agreement on cooperation between the Ministers of Internal Affairs in the fight against illicit drug-trafficking had been concluded in 1992, and a multilateral treaty on combating crime, including illicit drug-trafficking, had been signed by the security services of 12 States in 1995.

62. Since 1997, the countries concerned had focussed their efforts on preventing illicit drugs from crossing their borders. Over that period, a total of 7 tons of narcotic drugs had been confiscated, and thousands of criminal activities related to illicit drug-trafficking had been exposed. Organized drug cartels were now trying to find new routes across CIS borders and to expand the drug trade in Eastern and Central Europe. According to the information available, drug traffickers were trying to use CIS countries as a testing ground, to try out new drugs and artificially increase the demand for them. There was particular concern about the situation in Afghanistan, which was the source of the main drug flows passing through CIS countries into Europe. According to estimates, up to 1,500 tons of narcotics travelled those routes each year.

63. It was vital that the world community as a whole should coordinate its efforts through United Nations programmes with a view to making a decisive impact on that situation. The Governments on whose behalf he spoke fully approved UNDCP efforts in regard to Afghanistan and, in particular, the regional plan of

action recently approved with the framework of the "6+2" Group.

64. **Mr. Zoumanigui** (Guinea) said that the relevant documents under the agenda item should have been issued on time, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. His delegation supported the statement made by the representative of Nigeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. While methods of drug-trafficking and drug abuse might vary from country to country, their impact remained the same. He called for increased international cooperation in order to eradicate the scourge of drugs and welcomed the outcome of the twentieth special session of the General Assembly.

65. His delegation had actively participated in the preparatory meetings for the elaboration of the draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and very much hoped that the draft resolution on that question would be adopted in the plenary Assembly. His Government was prepared to sign and ratify the Convention and its protocols immediately upon their adoption and appreciated the efforts of the Government of Italy to ensure the broadest possible participation in the political signing conference in Palermo.

66. Guinea, a party to all international conventions relating to the drug problem, had adopted and enacted legislation and established the Central Anti-Drug Office and the National Inter-Ministerial Drug Control Office. National drug control institutions, the media, unions, religious groups and non-governmental organizations all participated in awareness-building campaigns on the impact of drugs on the population's health and the country's fragile economy. In that context, his Government, in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), had incorporated an anti-drug programme in the curricula of schools, vocational training institutes and universities. A national committee ensured that seized narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were incinerated and destroyed. Despite its strong commitment to drug control, however, Guinea's efforts were hampered by underqualified human resources, a lack of financial resources and equipment, and a refugee presence accounting for 10 per cent of its population.

67. The role of drugs in armed conflict was a serious problem which must be addressed by the international community, particularly UNDCP. The assignment of drug control advisers to peacekeeping issues would be of paramount importance in that connection. His delegation also encouraged UNDCP and other organizations of the United Nations system to coordinate their activities on poverty eradication and drug control in the context of common country assessments and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). The international community should devote attention, on a priority basis, to the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, which was grappling with serious financial difficulties. Despite the above-mentioned obstacles, his Government was developing new approaches to effective drug control, which it hoped would receive the support of the international community.

68. **Ms. Borzi** (Italy) expressed her delegation's full support for the statement made by the representative of France on behalf of the European Union. Her delegation was pleased that the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime had completed its work in July. Italy's commitment to the adoption of legal instruments against organized crime dated back to the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime, held in Naples in 1994, and the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court, held in Rome in 1998. Italy had participated actively in negotiations on the draft Convention and the protocols thereto within the Ad Hoc Committee. Together with Austria, it had drafted a proposal and working text for a protocol on the smuggling of migrants, an issue to which her Government attached particular importance, and which the Minister for Foreign Affairs had addressed during the general debate of the plenary Assembly.

69. It was to be hoped that the Committee would finalize the three additional protocols to the Convention which the Ad Hoc Committee would be completing by the end of the month. Her delegation had submitted a request to the President of the General Assembly for action to be taken on the draft protocols in the plenary Assembly on their completion. Her Government hoped that all Member States which had actively participated in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee would be represented at the highest level at the political signing conference, to be held in Palermo

from 12 to 15 December. Symposiums and seminars on global crime issues would be offered to Conference participants. Her Government was sponsoring the participation of representatives from 80 countries, including the least developed countries, in order to ensure equitable geographical representation. In article 21 bis of the draft Convention States parties were urged to make adequate and regular voluntary contributions to a United Nations funding mechanism to provide technical assistance in implementing the Convention to developing countries and countries with economies in transition. In that connection, her delegation would be introducing a draft resolution in the Committee entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme", which contained a special appeal to States parties to contribute to the speedy implementation of the Convention.

70. **Mr. Bakoniarivo** (Madagascar) stressed the relationship between poverty eradication and crime prevention, as highlighted at the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world". He also noted the references to respect for the rule of law, combating terrorism and even the possible elaboration of a convention against corruption in the United Nations Millennium Declaration.

71. Despite the progress achieved in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 54/131 on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, much remained to be done. In that context, his delegation welcomed the outcome of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Vienna in April 2000, which had been reinforced by the ninth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It hailed, in particular, the conclusion of negotiations on the elaboration of a draft United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto, addressing trafficking in women and children, combating the illicit manufacturing of and the trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, and smuggling of migrants by land, sea or air. Referring to General Assembly resolution 54/129, he expressed the hope that many countries would participate in the political signing conference, which the Government of Italy had generously offered to host.

72. In 1999, Madagascar had ratified the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, and it fully supported the convening no later than 2001of an international conference on illicit arms trade. During the Millennium Summit, the President of Madagascar had signed the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child related to the involvement of children in armed conflict and the Optional Protocol related to the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Madagascar was also a signatory to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and had participated in the negotiations leading to the recent adoption of the protocol on biosafety.

73. His delegation was anxious to begin negotiations on the elaboration of a convention against corruption. At the national level, it was combating corruption by improving the quality of administrative and legal institutions, education and awareness-building programmes for the various actors involved. A round table had been organized in Antananarivo in May 1999 by the International Institute of the Right to Development under the auspices of the Ministry of Justice and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). In late September, a training seminar on ethics and professionalism in public service had been organized jointly with the United Nations Development Programme.

74. As for drug control, Madagascar had strengthened its inter-ministerial body responsible for coordinating drug control activities by governmental and non-governmental organizations and fostering their cooperation with the institutions of other countries as well as regional and international organizations. It had harmonized its national legislation with the provisions of the international drug control conventions and, in 1997, with the assistance of UNDCP, had enacted a law on the control of narcotics, psychotropic substances and precursors. Since 1996, it had been attempting to take effective measures against money-laundering in all its aspects. All of those national efforts, however, would remain ineffective without regional and international cooperation and assistance.

75. **Mr. Abdullah** (Bangladesh) said that his Government welcomed the drawing up of the draft Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto. Bangladesh had strict laws

against drug-trafficking and other organized criminal activity and had signed cooperation agreements with a number of countries. However, greater efforts were needed at the national and international levels. Member States should take coordinated steps to implement the decisions of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders: negotiations on the three protocols to the draft Convention should be completed on time; the United Nations should strengthen its partnership with Interpol, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and other organizations; developing countries should be provided with increased funds and technical cooperation in order to combat transnational crime; and public awareness should be increased through information campaigns and education.

76. Bangladesh had enacted a Narcotics Control Act in 1990 and was considering supplementary legislation to strengthen its implementation. His Government's policy was based on the provisions of multilateral conventions and envisaged strong international cooperation; it had also concluded a number of bilateral agreements in that field.

77. Its location between two major narcotics-producing areas, the Golden Crescent and the Golden Triangle, made Bangladesh particularly vulnerable to drug traffickers, who used it as a route to Western markets. At the local level, easy availability and low prices had increased drug addiction among the nation's young people, whose frustration at the lack of employment, healthy entertainment and an effective education system, together with an uncertain future resulted in violence, alcohol abuse, juvenile delinquency and drug use.

78. The United Nations should consider ways of developing a comprehensive approach which would include greater support for UNDCP, regional efforts to combat crime and coordination of international activities, taking into account the link between drug-related activities and the illicit arms trade; trafficking in persons; and the illegal trade in national resources, including gems, minerals and timber.

79. **Ms. Zoghbia** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that transnational crime currently posed a threat to the security and stability of many States and communities. The creation of a crime-free society was one of her country's highest priorities, and it had enacted appropriate legislation to that end. She stressed the right of every State to enact crime prevention legislation consistent with its social, cultural, economic and political preferences.

80. She commended the United Nations for its endeavours with regard to crime prevention and criminal justice and welcomed the progress made by the Ad Hoc Committee in preparing the draft Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto. The eradication of poverty was essential if a long-term solution to the problem of crime was to be found. Developed countries had a responsibility to provide the developing world with the necessary economic and technical assistance and expertise. The United Nations played a fundamental role in supporting judicial cooperation and strengthening national legislation. It was therefore a matter for concern that the financial situation of the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders greatly affected its capacity to deliver services. She therefore urged that the Institute should be supported and enabled to fulfil its important mandate.

81. While the international community had had some impact on transnational organized crime, it was disturbing that certain countries continued to connive at the use in their economic development projects of funds supplied by criminal groups with a view to laundering money obtained through transnational criminal activities.

82. A number of international conventions on the eradication of various types of crime had been ratified. Nevertheless, additional measures were necessary in order to strengthen and expand the international criminal justice system to cover such crimes as genocide.

The meeting rose at 12.35 p.m.